

FORM B - BUILDING

Assessor's number
55/41

USGS Quad
Boston N.

Area(s)

Form Number
1055



Town Lexington

Place (neighborhood or village)

Address 125 Grant Street

Historic Name McKearney House

Uses: Present Residential

Original Barn?

Date of Construction 19th century

Source visual inspection

Style/Form ---

Architect/Builder unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation stone/brick

Wall/Trim wood shingles

Roof asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures

barn/garage

Major Alterations (with dates) by 1906 - moved to present site (?) and/or converted to residential use

Condition good

Moved ☐ no ☒ yes Date betw. 1875 & 1906

Acreage 21,321 SF

Setting mixed residential neighborhood adjacent to c.1960 subdivision



Recorded by Lisa Mausolf

Organization Lexington Historical Commission

Date (month/year) June 2000

BUILDING FORM (125 Grant Street)

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of the building in terms of other buildings within the community.

Located at the corner of Grant Street and Saddleclub Road, 125 Grant Street is a vernacular two-story building which may have been originally constructed as an outbuilding or barn and which may have been moved to this site in the late 19th or early 20th century. The side-gabled building is sheathed in wood shingles and rests on a stone foundation with a brick veneer on the front of the foundation. A single brick chimney with a corbel cap rises off the ridge of the asphalt-shingled roof.

The facade displays a fenestration pattern which is irregular and appears to substantiate the building's original non-residential use. There are five openings on the first floor of the facade including an off-center modern six-panel door with upper glass panes in the second bay. The door is set in a simple surround and is fronted by a brick stoop. The other first floor openings contain 6/6 sash with heavy muntins and molded surrounds. There are three windows on the second story of the facade, placed roughly at the center and two ends of the elevation and extending under the front eaves which project slightly.

The east end of the building is a single bay deep with a modern casement window on the first floor and a 6/6 sash above. The west end displays two bays of 6/6 windows and is fronted by a single-story screened porch of recent construction. Behind the main block there is a single-story bump-out on the east side and a two-story ell aligned with the west end.

The house is set close to Grant Street with a 1 1/2-story barn/garage located to the east. The wood-shingled building presently rests on a concrete foundation and displays a saltbox profile. There are two overhead vertical board doors facing the street and a hatch door above. A modern 6/6 window lights the east end.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

Describe the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.

The early history of this house is not known with any certainty. There are those that believe that the house was originally constructed as a barn and moved to this site and converted to residential use in the late 19th or early 20th century. (There is no house on this site at the time of the 1875 map.) It has been suggested that the building may have been relocated from the Hayes Estate although this could not be verified.

In *Tracing the Past*, Edwin Worthen makes no mention of the house being moved to its present location. He notes that the house "sits at an angle to the street and, in the old style, faces due south." According to Worthen in 1830 Otis Locke bought 4 1/2 acres of turf meadow from Dr. Leonard Proctor and in 1835 he was assessed for a new house (the present 125 Grant Street). In 1852 the major part of the farm passed to Hiram Reed who immediately sold it to George W. Piper. In 1856 the property passed to Emory Piper who sold it to Jasper Ferdinand in 1860. The property was subsequently deeded to Francis B. Hayes on May 21, 1863 (Worthen, p. 25-26). Hayes (1819-1884) owned nearly four hundred acres on Granny Hill, Meriam Street.

The 1906 Atlas indicates that this property (then including two buildings and two smaller outbuildings) was then owned by the Hayes Estate. By 1908 the house had been sold by the Hayes estate to John McKearney. The house is located on part of Lot 109 of the Oakmount Park subdivision. In 1909 McKearney was assessed for a cow and a house valued at \$750. The town history indicates that John Francis McKearney came to Lexington in 1882 and had nine children. Directories indicate that he was employed as a laborer. Prior to living here, McKearney lived on Hayes Avenue. The house is still owned by McKearney descendants today.

Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. *If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.*

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Massachusetts Historical Commission
Massachusetts Archives Building
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Town
Lexington

Property Address
125 Grant Street
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BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Hudson, Charles. *History of the Town of Lexington*. Boston: Houghton and Mifflin Co., 1913.
Lexington Assessors Records.
Lexington Directories, various dates.
Lexington Valuation Lists, various dates.
Worthen, Edwin B. *Tracing the Past in Lexington, Massachusetts*. New York: Vantage Press, 1998.
1875 Map.
1906 Atlas.